



For Immediate Release
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Runner Says Five Percent of Fire Tax Bills Mailed

SACRAMENTO – George Runner announced today that the State of California has mailed more than 40,000 “Fire Prevention Fee” bills to date.

“About 5% of the estimated 825,000 fire tax bills are in the mail so far,” said Runner. “The state is currently sending bills to taxpayers in Calaveras County. Up next are Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte and El Dorado counties.”

The tax, which Runner opposes as “unfair and unconstitutional,” was approved as a fee on a dubious simple majority vote of the Legislature last year and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown.

“Not one penny of this new tax will be used to put out fires,” cautioned Runner. “The funds collected—optimistically projected to be \$84 million—are restricted to funding existing fire prevention efforts and cannot be used for firefighters or actual fire suppression.”

The new law requires residential rural property owners in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) to pay \$150 for each habitable structure located on their land. Property owners who pay for local fire protection receive a \$35 reduction.

To help inform California taxpayers, Runner has established a website, calfirefee.com, providing information about the new fire tax. Californians can visit this site to find out if they will receive a fire tax bill. They can also learn details regarding the process, timeline and grounds for filing an appeal.

The state plans to mail more than 825,000 bills in alphabetical order by county between August and early December. The state has released the following partial mailing schedule, as well as a complete [county-by-county bill count](#).

County	Mailing Date	Number of Bills
ALAMEDA	August 13 th through 14 th	4,231
ALPINE	August 14 th	1,697
AMADOR	August 14 th through 17 th	11,569
BUTTE	August 17 th through 24 th	21,051
CALAVERAS	August 24 th through 29 th	23,224
COLUSA	August 29 th	411
CONTRA COSTA	August 29 th	4,336
DEL NORTE	August 29 th through 30 th	5,393
EL DORADO	August 30 th through September 7 th	51,897
FRESNO	September 7 th through 10 th	9,845
GLENN	September 10 th	327
HUMBOLDT	September 10 th through 12 th	15,824
IMPERIAL	September 12 th	17
INYO	September 12 th	3,132

Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a member of the State Board of Equalization. For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/Runner.

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